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Item 4 of the provisional agenda*
Monitoring, assessment and reporting

Monitoring, assessment and reporting on progress towards implementing the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030, including the United Nations forest instrument and voluntary national contributions

Note by the Secretariat

Summary

In accordance with paragraph 3 of its resolution 12/1, the United Nations Forum on Forests at its thirteenth session will consider the cycle and format for the voluntary national reporting to the Forum, taking into account the work on forest indicators, relevant reporting cycles and the need to reduce reporting burdens, as well as potential communication products from such reporting. The present note contains a proposal for the revised format and reporting cycle for voluntary national reporting on the implementation of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030, including the United Nations forest instrument and voluntary national contributions (see annex I), as well as an update on ongoing work related to the development of a global set of forest-related indicators (see annex II). The proposals are based on the outcome of intersessional activities carried out to advance the work of the Forum on monitoring, assessment and reporting. In addition, the note contains a proposal for a "flagship study" to be produced in 2021 by the Forum secretariat with partners. The note provides the basis for discussions by the Forum on item 4 of the provisional agenda and its sub-items, including the revised reporting format to the Forum, the starting point and cycle for reporting and the production of a "flagship study" in 2021.

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I. Introduction

1. In accordance with paragraph 3 of its resolution 12/1, the United Nations Forum on Forests at its thirteenth session would consider the cycle and format for the first voluntary national reporting to the Forum, taking into account the work on forest indicators, relevant reporting cycles and the need to reduce reporting burdens, as well as potential communication products from such reporting.

2. In accordance with paragraph 69 of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030, the Forum will establish a cycle and format for voluntary national reporting that takes into account the cycle of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Global Forest Resources Assessment and the cycle for reviewing the Sustainable Development Goals at the global level by the high-level political forum on sustainable development, in order to reduce reporting burdens. In addition, Member States may, on a voluntary basis, determine their "voluntary national contributions" to achieving these goals and targets and communicate their progress in this regard to the Forum at regular intervals to be determined by the Forum.

3. The present note provides a brief overview of intersessional activities related to monitoring, assessment and reporting. The aim of the note is to facilitate discussion under item 4 of the provisional agenda. It is expected that under that item the Forum will consider: (a) the revised reporting format; (b) the cycle for the first voluntary reporting to the Forum; (c) the global core set of forest-related indicators; and (d) the production of the "flagship study" in 2021.

II. Background

4. In 2015, the Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 2015/33 on the international arrangement on forests beyond 2015, decided on a number of actions related to monitoring, assessment and reporting, including to request the secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests to propose a new cycle and format for voluntary national reporting for consideration by the Forum at its twelfth session. The Council requested that the cycle and format be developed in consultation with Member States, the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and its members, and criteria and indicators processes.

5. At its special session held on 20 January 2017, the Forum adopted the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030 and the quadrennial programme of work of the Forum for the period 2017–2020. The strategic plan builds on the vision of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and provides a road map to guide forest-related contributions to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, as well as other international forest-related instruments, processes, commitments and goals. At the heart of the strategic plan are six global forest goals and 26 associated targets to be achieved by 2030.

6. At its twelfth session, the Forum reviewed the draft format for voluntary national reporting on the implementation of the strategic plan, including the United Nations forest instrument and voluntary national contributions, and requested the Forum secretariat to further revise the format on the basis of consultations with members of the Forum and views expressed during the twelfth session of the Forum and to pilot the draft format with interested members of the Forum from the five regional groups. In June 2017, the secretariat invited Member States to take part in a

pilot testing exercise. Several countries expressed their interest in participating and the draft format was disseminated among those countries.

7. Subsequently, the secretariat organized an expert group meeting on reporting to the Forum, held in Nairobi from 21 to 23 November 2017. The meeting was attended by 41 experts from 31 Member States and 5 international organizations. Participants shared experiences gained through the pilot testing exercise, including their views on the usefulness of the format in collecting information to assess progress in achieving the global forest goals and targets and implementing the United Nations forest instrument and voluntary national contributions, and provided their suggestions to revise the format.

III. Revised reporting format for voluntary national reporting to the Forum

8. The pilot test[1] of the reporting format was conducted between June and September 2017. The responses received were mostly comprehensive, clear and well documented with extensive background information, and clearly presented. With minor editing, they could serve as free-standing reports on forest policy and governance in the countries concerned for use by the public and other stakeholders. However, some challenges for analysis resulted from the responses, including:

(a) Overlap and duplication between the information for the different goals and targets and between the "actions" listed under each;

(b) The format will gather information on national progress towards sustainable forest management and national policy instruments. The global study will be prepared on the basis of this information and will address global or regional trends, both in outcomes, such as trends in forest area, and in policy instruments, such as national forest programmes or criteria and indicators systems. The challenge is to move from the comprehensive and detailed national information to a global, more general and analytical report, and not to publish lists in which there is no analytical input;

(c) Although most of the responses were comprehensive and clear, some replies were much longer than others and some questions were interpreted differently by different respondents.

9. Geographical coverage for the test was satisfactory for Africa, Asia and the Caribbean, relatively weak for Europe and absent for North, Central and South America. Responses were received from 16 countries: Botswana, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, China, Gabon, Ghana, Indonesia, Jamaica, Kenya, Finland, Malawi, Mauritius, Nepal, the Philippines, Saint Lucia and Switzerland. China and Finland only provided comments on the format, while the others filled in the format for the pilot study. Jamaica and the Philippines filled in and provided comments on the format. Additional input was received from Australia and Japan. In general, the respondents approved the format and made some editorial corrections and additional proposals, most of which were taken into account in the final draft of the document.

[1] More detailed information on the results of the pilot is available in the background document of the expert meeting, entitled "Analytical study on pilot reporting cycle for UNFF, and development of a reporting system to monitor progress towards Global Forest Goals and targets, as well as forest related SDGs" and available from http://www.un.org/esa/forests/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/MAR_pilot_study_Final.pdf.

10. Overall, the pilot exercise was considered a satisfactory test of the format. It is apparent that there are fundamental differences between monitoring trends for goals 1, 2 and 3, for which the targets are mostly formulated in terms of outcomes (for example, change in forest area), and goals 4, 5 and 6, which mostly address the policy tools to be put in place. For goals 1–3, objectively measured data on outcomes represent the most appropriate monitoring approach, whereas for goals 4–6, where the targets mostly concern commitments to engage policy instruments or resources, the monitoring of national policy instruments is more appropriate.

11. The participants at the Nairobi meeting[2] reviewed the reporting format and agreed on a number of changes to the format on the basis of their experience gained from the pilot testing exercise and discussions held at the expert group meeting. The revised format builds on the draft previously presented at the twelfth session of the Forum. As with the previous version, the revised format is structured around the six global forest goals and 26 associated targets. It has been further streamlined and the number of questions has been reduced. The revised reporting format is contained in annex I to the present note.

12. In the revised format, the sections related to goals 1–3 contain standard questions on legislative, policy, institutional, financial and technical questions. Assessment of progress towards achieving goals 1–3 will be supplemented to a large extent by quantitative data derived from a variety of global and regional sources and databases, including the Global Forest Resources Assessment, member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, criteria and indicators processes and the 2030 Agenda process.

13. The sections related to global forest goals 4, 5 and 6 contain a set of different questions, which are based on the former reporting template used for reporting to the Forum at its eleventh session. Targets 6.1 and 6.2 are not included under goal 6 in the reporting format as they address actions taken by the international community, and not those taken at the national level.

14. The final part of the format constitutes a separate section in which respondents are asked to share any "success stories" related to the implementation of the strategic plan. This open, mostly narrative format provides flexibility to countries to report on their actions towards the global forest goals and targets. The information submitted, supplemented by quantitative data, will make it possible to obtain a meaningful picture of global progress in achieving the global forest goals.

15. Feedback received from the pilot testing exercise and the Nairobi expert meeting stressed the importance of detailed guidelines on reporting and of the further sharing of experiences between national respondents. It was felt that in the absence of guidelines and the sharing of experiences, respondents in the pilot phase could have misinterpreted certain questions and terms in inconsistent ways. It was also noted that detailed guidelines should not be imposed in a top-down manner, but rather should first be proposed by the Forum secretariat in cooperation with partners and then discussed in detail with national respondents. A workshop for those responsible for preparing national reports could be held, possibly in 2018.

[2] The report of the meeting is available from http://www.un.org/esa/forests/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/Report_Nairobi_workshop.pdf.

IV. Cycle for voluntary national reporting

16. From 2009 to 2015, the Forum discussed progress towards the implementation of the United Nations forest instrument and its global objectives on forests at each biennial session; consequently, the reporting cycle was also conducted on a biennial basis. The frequency of Forum sessions has now changed pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 2015/33; from 2017 to 2030, the Forum will hold its sessions on an annual basis.

17. Odd-year sessions of the Forum, starting from the twelfth session, will be dedicated to discussions on "implementation and technical advice", including assessment of the progress in the implementation of the Forum's resolutions and decisions, the United Nations forest instrument and the strategic plan for forests.

18. In accordance with the strategic plan, the new cycle for voluntary national reporting by Member States to the Forum shall take into account the review cycle of the FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment and the Sustainable Development Goals being carried out under the aegis of the high-level political forum on sustainable development.

19. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 70/299, the high-level political forum on sustainable development is facilitating an in-depth review of progress made on all Sustainable Development Goals over the course of a four-year cycle, with means of implementation, including with respect to Goal 17, reviewed annually. Meetings of the high-level political forum are informed by an annual progress report on the selected Goals, as well as the quadrennial *Global Sustainable Development Report*.

20. In addition to the international reporting regimes, the timing and periodicity of reporting was discussed at the Nairobi meeting. It was noted that the collection of data at the national level, including from agencies whose primary focus is not on forests, required considerable time, and that this should be taken into account when planning the reporting cycle. Six months between the date of circulation of the reporting format and the deadline for receiving the reports was considered a reasonable estimate for the time needed by countries to prepare their reports. Likewise, considerable time and resources will be needed for processing the information, dialogue with countries (checking, clarification and requests for further information), conducting the analysis, both by measuring trends in statistical information and synthesizing large quantities of narrative information, and preparing the first draft. This would be followed by a period of internal and external review, collection of comments, correction and redrafting. Forum focal points may be requested to check the final product for correctness with regard to information concerning their own country.

21. At the expert meeting it was agreed that 2021 was an appropriate year for publication of the flagship study, since enough time would have elapsed since the adoption of the strategic plan and the report could use and build on the results of the 2020 cycle of the Global Forest Resources Assessment. The proposed detailed timeline for reporting is as follows:

(a) 2018: at its thirteenth session, the Forum considers the revised reporting format and the reporting cycle. The Forum also discusses the possibility of the flagship study on the basis of the voluntary reports and, if agreed, issues guidance for the study, and possibly agrees on funding;

(b) 2019: timely circulation of reporting format to national correspondents (report submission deadline to be end of 2019, therefore circulation of reporting format no later than June 2019). Structure put in place: advisory group formed, lead authors identified, workshop for national correspondents;

(c) 2020: analysis of national reports and results of 2020 cycle of the Global Forest Resources Assessment, drafting and internal and external review. Study to be published in early 2021;

(d) 2021: Forum reviews progress towards global forest goals and targets on the basis of the flagship study.

22. Once the first reporting cycle has been completed, future studies could be coordinated with the Global Forest Resources Assessment, which is on a five-year reporting cycle. The expert meeting in Nairobi noted the usefulness of coordinating activities with the Assessment and other processes in order to reduce the reporting burden and have a comprehensive and reliable database.

V. Dissemination and use of information from national reports

23. Participants at the Nairobi expert group meeting also discussed data sources and indicators to supplement information provided in national reports, how the information collected through national reports could be used by the Forum and the possible "end product" to be developed on the basis of the information submitted.

24. The Forum secretariat provided an overview of national reporting to the Forum since 2009, noting that the primary aim has been to track progress towards the implementation of the United Nations forest instrument and the achievement of its global objectives on forests. From 2009 to 2015, 180 national reports (from 100 countries) were submitted in the four reporting cycles. There was also a steady increase in the number of reports received in each cycle, from 21 reports received in 2009 to 81 reports received in 2015.

25. All national reports were posted on the Forum's website (see www.un.org/esa/forests/documents/national-reports/index.html). Information submitted by Member States was supplemented by quantitative data, mostly from the FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment, and summarized in reports of the Secretary-General. In addition, for the eleventh session of the Forum, the secretariat prepared a paper entitled "Background document on the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests, the global objectives on forests and the Millennium Development Goals: actions reported by countries to the United Nations Forum on Forests". The document was made available online as a background paper containing further information on the actions and examples reported by countries.

26. In accordance with the strategic plan, the secretariat noted that reporting to future sessions of the Forum should be focused on monitoring and assessing progress towards implementing the strategic plan and its global forest goals and targets, and measuring progress towards announced voluntary national contributions and implementation of the United Nations forest instrument. At the twelfth session of the Forum, Member States initiated a discussion on how the information submitted to the secretariat could be utilized better, beyond the production of the relatively short official document produced for Forum sessions.

27. The Nairobi meeting discussed the possibility of studies or reports that could be produced by the Forum secretariat. Participants strongly endorsed the concept of a

"flagship study", produced on the basis of national reports and focused on progress towards the global forest goals and targets, that could be prepared by the Forum with a wide range of partners. The study should be in a form of a publication, should be ambitious and visible and should address the core issues related to sustainable forest management and implementation of the strategic plan. It should have substance as well as symbolic importance, and be well presented and addressed to an audience wider than those who constitute the Forum's core community. Such a study would generate a clear story based on facts and demonstrate the ability of the United Nations to speak with a single voice on major forest issues, demonstrating the contribution of forests to the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as the central position of the Forum.

28. A number of advantages could be expected from a visible and ambitious flagship study, building on official data, both with regard to outcomes, notably through the Global Forest Resources Assessment, and actions taken to implement the commitments. Among the advantages, participating experts identified the following:

(a) Obtain information for policy decisions, focusing on key questions, including:

(i) Is progress sufficient?

(ii) What else is needed?

(b) Track global progress towards sustainable forest management and the global forest goals and targets, and raise awareness of sustainable forest management;

(c) Put forests on the global agenda;

(d) Use facts to formulate a strong and understandable story (at the global, regional and national levels);

(e) Facilitate access to finance by demonstrating issues and challenges;

(f) Provide reference material for education and research;

(g) Provide an opportunity to involve the private sector;

(h) Create advantages at the national level: stimulate data collection, clarify broad objectives and vision of forest policy, and improve cooperation between institutions and agencies.

29. Experts also discussed the added value of the flagship study compared with other forest-related studies, including:

(a) Its focus on monitoring global commitments (the global forest goals and targets);

(b) The comprehensive and inclusive nature of the study (all dimensions of sustainable forest management, all countries);

(c) The authority it would have coming from the forest policy centre of the United Nations system, with input from Member States and many partners, and using officially supplied information.

30. At the Nairobi meeting, it was strongly recommended that the flagship study be issued in 2021, be focused on progress towards the global forest goals and targets, and be prepared by the Forum with a wide range of partners.

VI. Progress towards the development of a global core set of forest-related indicators

31. In November 2016, an organization-led initiative in support of the Forum was held by the Collaborative Partnership on Forests on the subject of global forest indicators to support implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the strategic plan. Participants considered a global core set of forest-related indicators that covers indicators for sustainable forest management, indicators for progress towards the forest-related Sustainable Development Goals and targets, and possible indicators for what at the time were the draft targets for the strategic plan. In line with the recommendation of the initiative and following the guidance of the Forum and the FAO Committee on Forestry, the Collaborative Partnership on Forests established a joint initiative on streamlining forest-related reporting and within it a specific task force to work on the global core set of indicators. Since the holding of the organization-led initiative, there has been a process of consultations and discussions online and at meetings, including at the Expert Consultation on Global Forest Resources Assessment held in June 2017. The Collaborative Partnership on Forests task force guided the process and finalized the draft global core set of indicators.

32. The proposed draft set of indicators is contained in annex II to the present note. It is structured and numbered according to the seven thematic areas of sustainable forest management approved by the Forum, each of which is addressed at least once. The set should be seen as an evolving instrument and can be expanded in accordance with new circumstances, information needs and policy goals.

33. The aim of the global core set is not to generate another set of indicators to compete with the existing sets, each of which has its own objectives, institutional framework and geographic scope. Nor is it to create a new indicator set for sustainable forest management, parallel to the existing regional sets and indicator 15.2.1 of the Sustainable Development Goals. Rather, elements of the set of indicators are derived from those reporting processes, which in turn will benefit from the existence of information in a common platform or pool. The aim is to articulate a core set with a limited number of indicators that address efficiently the topics identified by the various high-level forums and thus focus data collection efforts on the questions of the highest policy importance and avoid duplicate reporting.

34. It is expected that the global core set will be used for and support the measurement of progress in implementing the strategic plan, its global forest goals and their associated targets and the monitoring of objectives of other processes.

35. The participants at the Nairobi meeting exchanged views on the core set and noted that some of the indicators referred to important policy commitments (for example, on forest-dependent people or the contribution of forests to food security), but for which, at present, there is no robust international set of comparable data. This situation would clearly have a negative influence on monitoring progress towards the targets affected. Indicators for which major difficulties remain are indicators 7 (area of degraded forest), 13 (number of forest-dependent people in extreme poverty), 14 (contribution of forests to food security) and 15 (financial resources from all sources for the implementation of sustainable forest management). Although problems with data are foreseeable in these areas, it was recommended that requests for data on those issues should not be incorporated into the reporting format for the Forum as it was considered unnecessary to increase the reporting burden with little likelihood of a significant improvement in the availability of comparable data at the global level.

Annex I

Proposed format for reporting on progress towards the implementation of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030, the United Nations forest instrument and voluntary national contributions[1]

1. The format is structured around the global forest goals and targets of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030 and builds on the format previously used for reporting to the United Nations Forum on Forests at its eleventh session. It is largely narrative, reflecting the qualitative nature of many of the targets.

2. Only information that is not currently provided to the member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests or that is not in other international databases is requested. The information submitted will be supplemented with quantitative data, among other things, from the following international data providers:

(a) Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Global Forest Resources Assessment/collaborative forest resources questionnaires, Forest Europe, Economic Commission for Europe, International Tropical Timber Organization, Montreal Process and Observatory for the Forests of Central Africa;

(b) Reports on the state of the world's forests, produced every two years by FAO;

(c) Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat;

(d) Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development;

(e) Other data sources, including the Forest Stewardship Council and the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification.

3. Members are kindly requested:

(a) To submit their completed national reports electronically (in Microsoft Word format) in English, French or Spanish to unff@un.org by [date to be determined], bearing in mind that early submissions will greatly facilitate the secretariat's preparation of the report on progress towards the goals and targets of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030 [title and focus to be determined] to be presented to the Forum in 2021 [to be confirmed];

(b) To submit, in a separate electronic file, a scanned version of the official signed letter conveying their submission from the respective ministry, or a note verbale from their permanent mission to the United Nations in New York;

(c) In view of the cross-cutting nature of issues relating to forests and sustainable forest management, to consult experts from relevant national ministries, such as those of the environment, economic development, finance and agriculture, in completing the reporting format and to consult the national focal points for the forest resources assessments, the Rio Conventions secretariats, other member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, criteria and indicators processes, and

[1] Detailed guidelines will be prepared and discussed and will, among other things, state the purpose of reporting and how the data will be used. References to voluntary national contributions will be harmonized with the process to be put in place for announcing voluntary national contributions.

relevant stakeholders, where applicable. Members may also wish to consult stakeholders when preparing their report.

4. The year 2015 is used as a baseline.

5. Where possible, all terms used herein are consistent with the terms and definitions used by the FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment.

6. Wherever possible, please indicate the source of information or provide a weblink.

General information

National focal point

Name:	
Title:	
Address:	
Organization:	
Telephone:	
Email:	

Person to contact concerning the national report, if someone other than the national focal point

Name:	
Title:	
Address:	
Organization:	
Telephone:	
Email:	

Institutions involved in the preparation of the national report

Institution(s):	
Address:	
Email:	

Global forest goal 1 and associated targets[2]

Reverse the loss of forest cover worldwide through sustainable forest management, including protection, restoration, afforestation and reforestation, and increase efforts to prevent forest degradation and contribute to the global effort of addressing climate change

Associated targets

1.1 Forest area is increased by 3 per cent worldwide[3]

1.2 The world's forest carbon stocks are maintained or enhanced

1.3 By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally

1.4 The resilience and adaptive capacity of all types of forests to natural disasters and the impact of climate change is significantly strengthened worldwide

Questions on goal 1

1. (a) Since 2015,[4] what types of action have been taken (by the Government, the private sector, communities, civil society or others) in your country to advance or contribute to the achievement of targets 1.1–1.4?

Please indicate to which targets the actions relate and briefly describe the results to date (in a maximum of 250 words). For each action, please indicate whether it is continuous, planned, in progress or completed.

(i) Legislative and policy actions

List of actions: *Description of actions:*

[2] Goal 1 and its targets support and contribute to the achievement of, among other things, targets 6.6, 12.2, 13.1, 13.3, 14.2, 15.1–15.4 and 15.8 of the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as Aichi Biodiversity Targets 5, 7, 9, 11, 14 and 15, and are supported by paragraphs 6 (o) and 7 (d) and (e) of the United Nations forest instrument.

[3] Based on the Global Forest Resources Assessment 2015.

[4] Or earlier, where relevant to capturing important action. The same applies hereafter.

(ii) Institutional actions

List of actions: *Description of actions:*

(iii) Financial actions

List of actions: *Description of actions:*

(iv) Technical and scientific actions

List of actions:

Description of actions:

(b) How do the actions listed above support the implementation of the United Nations forest instrument?

(c) What are the main challenges in achieving goal 1 in your country?

(d) If your Government has announced a voluntary national contribution or contributions relating to goal 1, please provide brief information, including target dates and the progress made thus far.

(e) Any additional comments on goal 1:

Global forest goal 2 and associated targets[5]

Enhance forest-based economic, social and environmental benefits, including by improving the livelihoods of forest-dependent people

Associated targets

2.1 Extreme poverty for all forest-dependent people is eradicated

2.2 Increase the access of small-scale forest enterprises, in particular in developing countries, to financial services, including affordable credit, and their integration into value chains and markets

2.3 The contribution of forests and trees to food security is significantly increased

2.4 The contribution of forest industry, other forest-based enterprises and forest ecosystem services to social, economic and environmental development, among other things, is significantly increased

2.5 The contribution of all types of forests to biodiversity conservation and climate change mitigation and adaptation is enhanced, taking into account the mandates and ongoing work of relevant conventions and instruments

Questions on goal 2

2. (a) Since 2015, what types of action have been taken (by the Government, the private sector, communities, civil society or others) in your country to advance or contribute to the achievement of targets 2.1–2.5?

Please indicate to which targets the actions relate and briefly describe the results to date (in a maximum of 250 words). For each action, please indicate whether it is continuous, planned, in progress or completed.

[5] Goal 2 and its targets support and contribute to the achievement of, among other things, targets 1.1, 1.4, 2.4, 4.4, 5.a, 6.6, 8.3, 9.3, 12.2, 12.5, 15.6 and 15.c of the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as Aichi Biodiversity Targets 4, 14 and 18, and are supported by paragraphs 6 (d)–(f), (h), (j), (p), (q), (t)–(v) and (y) and 7 (k) of the United Nations forest instrument.

(i) Legislative and policy actions

List of actions: *Description of actions:*

(ii) Institutional actions

List of actions: *Description of actions:*

(iii) Financial actions

List of actions: *Description of actions:*

(iv) Technical and scientific actions

List of actions: *Description of actions:*

(b) What other action is being taken (by the Government, the private sector, communities, civil society or others) in your country in support of the achievement of goal 2?

(c) How does the action listed above support the implementation of the United Nations forest instrument?

(d) What are the main challenges in achieving goal 2 in your country?

(e) If your Government has announced a voluntary national contribution or contributions relating to goal 2, please provide brief information, including target dates and the progress made thus far.

(f) Any additional comments on goal 2:

Global forest goal 3 and associated targets[6]

Increase significantly the area of protected forests worldwide and other areas of sustainably managed forests, as well as the proportion of forest products from sustainably managed forests

Associated targets

3.1 The area of forests worldwide designated as protected areas or conserved through other effective area-based conservation measures is significantly increased

3.2 The area of forests under long-term forest management plans is significantly increased

3.3 The proportion of forest products from sustainably managed forests is significantly increased

Questions on goal 3

3. (a) Since 2015, what types of action have been taken (by the Government, the private sector, communities, civil society or others) in your country to advance or contribute to the achievement of targets 3.1–3.3?

Please indicate to which targets the actions relate and briefly describe the results to date (in a maximum of 250 words). For each action, please indicate whether it is continuous, planned, in progress or completed.

(i) Legislative and policy actions

List of actions: *Description of actions:*

[6] Goal 3 and its targets support and contribute to the achievement of, among other things, targets 7.2, 12.2, 12.6, 12.7, 14.2, 14.5, 15.2 and 15.4 of the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as Aichi Biodiversity Targets 7, 11, 12 and 16, and are supported by paragraphs 6 (p), (q) and (x) and 7 (f) and (g) of the United Nations forest instrument.

(ii) Institutional actions

List of actions: *Description of actions:*

(iii) Financial actions

List of actions: *Description of actions:*

(iv) Technical and scientific actions

List of actions: *Description of actions:*

(b) What other action is being taken (by the Government, the private sector, communities, civil society or others) in your country in support of the achievement of goal 3?

(c) How does the action listed above support the implementation of the United Nations forest instrument?

(d) What are the main challenges in achieving goal 3 in your country?

(e) If your Government has announced a voluntary national contribution or contributions relating to goal 3, please provide brief information, including target dates and the progress made thus far.

(f) Any additional comments on goal 3:

Global forest goal 4 and associated targets[7]

Mobilize significantly increased, new and additional financial resources from all sources for the implementation of sustainable forest management and strengthen scientific and technical cooperation and partnerships

Associated targets

4.1 Mobilize significant resources from all sources and at all levels to finance sustainable forest management and provide adequate incentives to developing countries to advance such management, including for conservation and reforestation

4.2 Forest-related financing from all sources at all levels, including public (national, bilateral, multilateral and triangular), private and philanthropic financing, is significantly increased

4.3 North-South, South-South, North-North and triangular cooperation and public-private partnerships on science, technology and innovation in the forest sector are significantly enhanced and increased

4.4 The number of countries that have developed and implemented forest financing strategies and have access to financing from all sources is significantly increased

4.5 The collection, availability and accessibility of forest-related information is improved through, for example, multidisciplinary scientific assessments

[7] Goal 4 and its targets support and contribute to the achievement of, among other things, targets 12.a, 15.7, 15.a, 15.b, 17.1–17.3, 17.6, 17.7 and 17.16–17.19 of the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as Aichi Biodiversity Target 19, and are supported by paragraphs 6 (h), (i), (m), (r) and (s) and 7 (a)–(c) and (l)–(q) of the United Nations forest instrument.

Questions on goal 4

4. (a) Please describe major actions taken in your country to move towards goal 4 and its associated targets. More detailed information on actions for each target may be supplied below.

(b) If your Government has announced a voluntary national contribution or contributions relating to goal 4, please provide brief information, including target dates and the progress made thus far.

Progress towards targets 4.1 and 4.2

(c) Since 2015, has your country (the Government, the private sector, communities, civil society or others) been able to mobilize significantly increased financial resources for the implementation of sustainable forest management?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, please specify the sources:

☐ Public domestic funding

☐ Private domestic funding

☐ Public international funding, including official development assistance

☐ Private international funding

☐ Blended financing

Please describe the main challenges in mobilizing funds in a maximum of 250 words:

Progress towards target 4.3

(d) Is your country (the Government, the private sector, communities, civil society or others) engaged in international cooperation to promote sustainable forest management?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, please specify the entity or entities with which your country is cooperating:

☐ Governments

☐ Intergovernmental organizations/processes

☐ Private sector

☐ Non-governmental organizations

☐ Other

Types of cooperation:

☐ North-South

☐ South-South

☐ North-North

☐ Triangular

☐ Technical

☐ Financial

☐ Other (please specify):

Areas of cooperation:

☐ Forests and climate change

☐ Forest biodiversity

☐ Valuation of the ecosystem services provided by forests

☐ Socioeconomic issues, including livelihoods

☐ Forest degradation and rehabilitation

☐ Scientific cooperation

☐ Forest monitoring/data collection

☐ Technology transfer and capacity development

☐ Production of timber or non-timber products

☐ Other (please specify):

Progress towards target 4.4

(e) Since 2015, has your Government developed or implemented financing strategies to achieve sustainable forest management and to implement the United Nations forest instrument?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, what is the time frame for these strategies (multiple answers possible, if there is more than one strategy)?

☐ 2–5 years

☐ 5–10 years

☐ 10–20 years

☐ More than 20 years

Global forest goal 5 and associated targets[a]

Promote governance frameworks to implement sustainable forest management, including through the United Nations forest instrument, and enhance the contribution of forests to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Associated targets

5.1 Number of countries that have integrated forests into their national sustainable development plans and/or poverty reduction strategies is significantly increased

5.2 Forest law enforcement and governance are enhanced, including through significantly strengthening national and subnational forest authorities, and illegal logging and associated trade are significantly reduced worldwide

5.3 National and subnational forest-related policies and programmes are coherent, coordinated and complementary across ministries, departments and authorities, consistent with national laws, and engage relevant stakeholders, local communities and indigenous peoples, fully recognizing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

5.4 Forest-related issues and the forest sector are fully integrated into decision-making processes concerning land use planning and development

[a] Goal 5 and its targets support and contribute to the achievement, among other things, of targets 1.4, 2.4, 5.a, 15.9, 15.c, 16.3, 16.5–16.7, 16.10 and 17.14 of the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as Aichi Biodiversity Targets 2 and 3, and are supported by paragraphs 6 (a), (c), (k), (l), (n) and (w) and 7 (c) and (h)–(j) of the United Nations forest instrument.

Questions on goal 5

5. (a) Please describe major actions taken in your country to move towards goal 5 and its associated targets. More detailed information on actions for each target may be supplied below.

(b) If your Government has announced a voluntary national contribution or contributions relating to goal 5, please provide brief information, including target dates and the progress made thus far.

Progress towards target 5.1

(c) In your country, have forests been integrated into national sustainable development plans and/or poverty reduction strategies?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, please specify if integrated into:

☐ National sustainable development plans and/or

☐ Poverty reduction strategies

Progress towards target 5.2

(d) Since 2015, has your Government taken steps to prevent and reduce illegal international trafficking in forest products, wildlife and other biological resources?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, please specify the type of action:

☐ New legislation

☐ Improved enforcement of existing legislation

☐ Export controls

☐ Import controls

☐ Bilateral agreements between exporting/importing countries

☐ Other action, for example, public procurement policies and public-private partnerships. Please list below:

Progress towards target 5.3

(e) Are mechanisms in place to ensure cross-sectoral coordination among government agencies?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, please specify in a maximum of 250 words:

(f) What types of mechanism are in place to involve stakeholders in forest/sustainable forest management policy formulation, planning and implementation?

Please specify in a maximum of 250 words:

Progress towards target 5.4

(g) Are mechanisms in place to involve the forest sector in cross-sectoral coordination among government agencies in charge of land use planning and development?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, please specify in a maximum of 250 words:

Global forest goal 6 and associated targets[9]

Enhance cooperation, coordination, coherence and synergies on forest-related issues at all levels, including within the United Nations system and across member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, as well as across sectors and relevant stakeholders

Note: targets 6.1 and 6.2 are not included in this section of the reporting format as they address actions taken by the international community, and not those taken at the national level

Associated targets

6.3 Cross-sectoral coordination and cooperation to promote sustainable forest management and halt deforestation and forest degradation are significantly enhanced at all levels

6.4 A greater common understanding of the concept of sustainable forest management is achieved and an associated set of indicators is identified

6.5 The input and involvement of major groups and other relevant stakeholders in the implementation of the strategic plan and in the work of the Forum, including intersessional work, is strengthened

Questions on goal 6

6. (a) Please describe major actions taken in your country to move towards goal 6 and its associated targets. More detailed information on actions for each target may be supplied below.

(b) If your Government has announced a voluntary national contribution or contributions relating to goal 6, please provide brief information, including target dates and the progress made thus far.

[9] Goal 6 and its targets support and contribute to the achievement of, among other things, target 17.14 of the Sustainable Development Goals and are supported by paragraphs 6 (b), (c), (g), (m) and (w) and 7 (r) and (s) of the United Nations forest instrument.

Progress towards target 6.4 (criteria and indicators)

(c) Are criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management used in your country?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, please specify which sets are used:

☐ National or subnational

☐ Regional or international[10]

☐ Other (please specify):

For which of the following purposes are they used? (Multiple answers possible)

☐ To generate information for national reports on forest conditions and management

☐ To monitor and assess forest conditions and management

☐ To review and develop national forest policies and tools for sustainable forest management

☐ To communicate with society and carry out dialogue with stakeholders

☐ To report on forests to regional and international organizations (please specify):

Progress towards target 6.4 (communication and awareness)

(d) Since 2015, have actions been taken (by the Government, the private sector, communities, civil society or others) in your country to communicate and promote a greater understanding and awareness of sustainable forest management?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, please specify in a maximum of 250 words:

Progress towards target 6.5

(e) Have actions been taken by your Government to involve major groups and other relevant stakeholders in the implementation of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030?

☐ Yes ☐ No

[10] For instance, those used by the International Tropical Timber Organization, Forest Europe, the Montreal Process and the Tarapoto Proposal on Criteria and Indicators for Sustainability of Amazonian Forests.

If yes, please specify in a maximum of 250 words:

Other questions

7. (a) Since 2015, has your country taken action to promote gender equality in the forest sector?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, please indicate action taken with regard to the following:

☐ Women's effective access to the control and use of forest resources

☐ Women's effective participation in decision-making at the household and community levels

☐ Women's effective participation and representation in forest management institutions

☐ Other

Please provide a brief description:

(b) What action has been taken (by the Government, the private sector, communities, civil society or others) in your country in observance of the International Day of Forests?

☐ Cultural activities (for example, art, music, film and theatre)

☐ Educational activities (for example, workshops and symposiums)

☐ Media activities (for example, newspapers, magazines, television and radio)

☐ Social media activities

☐ Other

Please provide two to three examples and, if possible, a weblink or weblinks to relevant documentation:

Success stories

8. Do you have any success stories relating to the implementation of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030 in your country? If so, please provide a brief description, with references (such as weblinks, publications and articles), showing how the action contributed to achieving the goals and targets and specifying which goals and targets are relevant. Please provide a maximum of three success stories.

Success story 1

Action taken:

Goals and targets addressed:

Outcome and results achieved:

How did this action contribute to the implementation of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030?

References:

Annex II

Draft global core set of forest-related indicators

	Indicator	*Thematic element*	*Unit*	*Tier a*	*Data supplier*	*Linkages to globally agreed goals and targets*
1.	**Forest area as a proportion of total land area**	1. Extent of forest resources	Percentage	1	FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment	Measures progress towards target 15.1 of the Sustainable Development Goals and global forest goal 1. Sustainable Development Goal indicator 15.1.1
2.	**Forest area annual net change rate**	1. Extent of forest resources	Percentage	1	FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment	Measures progress towards target 15.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals and target 1.1 of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030. Subindicator of Sustainable Development Goal indicator 15.2.1
3.	**Net greenhouse gas emissions (source)/ removals (sink) of forests, and carbon balance of harvested wood products**	1. Extent of forest resources 4. Productive functions of forest resources	Kilotons of carbon dioxide emissions per year	2	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change secretariat	Measures progress towards targets 1.2 and 2.5 of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030. Linkages with Sustainable Development Goal 13 and measuring, reporting and verifying requirements under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
4.	**Proportion of forest area located within legally established protected areas**	2. Forest biological diversity	Percentage	1	FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment	Measures progress towards target 15.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals, targets 2.5 and 3.1 of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030 and Aichi Biodiversity Target 11. Subindicator of Sustainable Development Goal indicator 15.2.1
5.	**Change in area of primary forests**	2. Forest biological diversity	Hectares	1	FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment	Measures progress towards target 1.3 of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030 and Aichi Biodiversity Target 5. Linkages with Sustainable Development Goal 15

	Indicator	*Thematic element*	*Unit*	*Tier*	*Data supplier*	*Linkages to globally agreed goals and targets*
6.	**Proportion of forest area disturbed**	3. Forest health and vitality	Percentage of forest area	2	FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment	Measures progress towards target 1.4 of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030
7.	**Area of degraded forest**	3. Forest health and vitality	Hectares	3	FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment	Measures progress towards target 1.3 of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030. Linkages with target 15.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as Aichi Biodiversity Target 15. Linkages to strategic objective 1 of the 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa (2008–2018), and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
8.	**Above-ground biomass stock in forest**	4. Productive function of forest resources	Tons per hectare	1	FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment	Measures progress towards target 15.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals and targets 1.2 and 2.5 of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030, as well as Aichi Biodiversity Target 7. Subindicator of Sustainable Development Goal indicator 15.2.1
9.	**Volume of wood removals**	4. Productive function of forest resources	Cubic metres	1	ECE/FAO/ International Tropical Timber Organization/ Eurostat joint forest sector questionnaire	Measures progress towards target 2.4 of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030
10.	**Wood-based energy share of total final energy consumption**	4. Productive function of forest resources	Percentage	2	ECE and FAO	Linked to target 7.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals

	Indicator	*Thematic element*	*Unit*	*Tier*	*Data supplier*	*Linkages to globally agreed goals and targets*
11.	**Forest area with a designated management objective to maintain and enhance its protective functions**	5. Protective function of forest resources	Hectares	1	FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment	Linked to target 1.4 of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030
12.	**Employment related to the forest sector**	6. Socioeconomic functions of forest resources	Number of full-time equivalents	2	FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment	Measures progress towards target 2.4 of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030
13.	**Number of forest-dependent people in extreme poverty**	6. Socioeconomic functions of forest resources	Number	3	FAO and United Nations Forum on Forests	Measures progress towards global forest goal 2 and target 2.1 of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030
14.	**Contribution of forests to food security**	6. Socioeconomic functions of forest resources	To be decided	3	FAO and United Nations Forum on Forests	Measures progress towards global forest goal 2 and target 2.3 of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030
15.	**Financial resources from all sources for the implementation of sustainable forest management**	6. Socioeconomic functions of forest resources	United States dollars	3	OECD, World Bank	Measures progress towards global forest goal 4 and targets 4.1 and 4.2 of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030. Linkages with targets 15.a and 15.b of the Sustainable Development Goals
16.	**Existence of national or subnational policies, strategies, legislation, regulations and institutions that explicitly encourage sustainable forest management**	7. Legal, policy and institutional framework	References	1	FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment	Measures progress towards global forest goal 5 of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030

	Indicator	*Thematic element*	*Unit*	*Tier*[a]	*Data supplier*	*Linkages to globally agreed goals and targets*
17.	**Existence of national or subnational forest assessment process**	7. Legal, policy and institutional framework	References	1	FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment	Measures progress towards target 4.5 of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030
18.	**Existence of national or subnational stakeholder platform for participation in forest policy development**	7. Legal, policy and institutional framework	References	1	FAO Global Forest Resources Assessments	Measures progress towards target 4.5 of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030
19.	**Proportion of forest area under a long-term forest management plan**	7. Legal, policy and institutional framework	Percentage	1	FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment	Measures progress towards target 15.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals, targets 1.3 and 3.2 of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030 and Aichi Biodiversity Target 7. Subindicator of Sustainable Development Goal indicator 15.2.1
20.	**Forest area under an independently verified forest management certification scheme**	7. Legal, policy and institutional framework	Hectares	1	FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment	Measures progress towards target 15.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals and targets 1.3 and 3.3 of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030. Subindicator of Sustainable Development Goal indicator 15.2.1
21.	**Existence of traceability system(s) for wood products**	7. Legal, policy and institutional framework	References	2	FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment	Measures progress towards targets 3.3 and 5.2 of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030

Abbreviations: ECE, Economic Commission for Europe; FAO, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; OECD, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

[a] Tier 1: methodology and data in place. Tier 2: methodology in place, data challenges. Tier 3: methodology and data both present challenges.